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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of Maki et al.	:	
Application No. 10/526,744	:	On Application For
Int'l. Filing Date: September 5, 2003	:	Patent Term Adjustment
Attorney Docket No. 053466-0395	:	

This is a decision on the "Request for Reconsideration of Patent Term Adjustment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.705" filed December 16, 2009. Applicants submit the correct patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent is six hundred seventy-nine (679) days, not three hundred sixteen (316) days as calculated by the Office as of the mailing of the initial determination of patent term adjustment. Applicants request this correction solely on the basis that the Office will take in excess of three years to issue this patent.

As the instant application for patent term adjustment requests reconsideration of the patent term adjustment as it relates to the Office's failure to issue the patent within 3 years of the filing date, the application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) is **DISMISSED as PREMATURE**.

Knowledge of the actual date the patent issues is required to calculate the amount, if any, of additional patent term patentee is entitled to for Office failure to issue the patent within 3 years. See 37 CFR 1.702(b). (This is true even where a request for continued examination (RCE) was filed). The computer will not undertake the § 1.702(b) calculation until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. Likewise, the computer will not calculate any further Office delay under § 1.702(a)(4) or applicant delay under § 1.704(c)(10) until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. As such, the Office can not make a determination on the correctness of the patent term adjustment until the patent has issued.

Requesting reconsideration of the patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent under 37 CFR 1.705(b) based on the initial determination of patent term adjustment and a projected issuance date of the patent (or even the filing date of the request for continued examination) is premature. Accordingly, it is appropriate to dismiss as premature such a request.

Rather than file an application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) contesting the 37 CFR 1.702(b) calculation at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance, an applicant may wait until the time of the issuance of the patent and file a request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d). As the USPTO does not calculate the

amount of time earned pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(b) until the time of the issuance of the patent, the Office will consider any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment due to an error in the calculation of 37 CFR 1.702(b) to be timely if the request for reconsideration is filed within two months of the issuance of the patent. However, as to all other bases for contesting the initial determination of patent term adjustment received with the notice of allowance, applicant must timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee.¹

Applicants have submitted the \$200.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(e) for consideration of the application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b). However, applicants state, “[B]ecause this PTA error is due to a Patent Office error in interpreting and applying the PTA statute, a refund of the fee is respectfully requested.” An application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705 must be accompanied by payment of a \$200 fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.18(e). The Office does not refund the fee even if the petition is necessitated by Office error.² Therefore, the Office will not refund the fee.

Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated on the patent must be timely filed within 2 months after issuance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d) and must include payment of the required fee under 37 CFR 1.18(e).

The Office of Data Management has been advised of this decision. This application is being referred to the Office of Data Management for issuance of the patent.

Telephone inquiries regarding this communication should be directed to Petitions Attorney Steven Brantley at (571) 272-3203.



Anthony Knight
Supervisor
Office of Petitions

¹ For example, if applicant disputes both the calculation of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1) for Office failure to mail a first Office action or notice of allowance not later than fourteen months after the date on which the application was filed and under 37 CFR 1.702(b) for Office failure to issue a patent within three years of the actual filing date of the application, then applicant must still timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee to contest the calculation of Office delay in issuing a first Office action or notice of allowance. See 37 CFR 1.705(b) and 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B). A dispute as to the calculation of the § 1.702(a)(1) period raised on request for reconsideration of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(d) will be dismissed as untimely filed.

² See Response to Comment 1, Changes to Implement Patent Term Adjustment Under Twenty-Year Patent Term; Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 56,366, 53,374 (September 18, 2000), 1239 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 14 (October 3, 2000) (“refunding the fee under § 1.18(e) when the application for patent term adjustment is correct would: (1) require the Office to raise the fee set forth in § 1.18(e) (to enable the Office to recover the same aggregate amount); and (2) add further complication to a review process that must take place in a limited period of time.”)